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Atty. Docket No. 02986.P006

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kenneth S. McElvain, et al.

Application No. 09/313,225

Filed: May 17, 1999

For: METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR
DESIGNING INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

Examiner: G. Auduong

Art Unit: 2818

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 19, 2002, please consider the following response.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, there was an objection to certain claims (claims 1, 20, 32 and 51) based on the use of the phrase "allocating a portion of an area of said IC to a specific portion" and there was a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,696,771 (referred to herein as "Beausang").

In this response, Applicant has amended no claims and submits that all claims (1-73) are allowable.

The objection to claims 1, 20, 32 and 51 should be removed for at least the following reasons. The "portion" referred to represents a physical portion of an IC and the "specific portion" represents a portion of, for example, a netlist in a description of a circuit. The "specific portion" is part of the technology independent RTL netlist (see, e.g., claim 1). Thus, the "portion" refers to a physical object (e.g. the integrated circuit) while the "specific portion" refers to a description of a circuit. The specification gives several